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Pores in the integument of salticid spiders

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PORES IN THE INTEGUMENT OF SALTICID SPIDERS. D.E. Hill

During the course of a recent SEM study of salticid scales, I noticed the presence of perfectly round pores of ca. 500 nm. diameter, at the center of distinctive elevated cuticular disks of ca. 10 μ m. in diameter (Figs. 1, 2).

The pores are distributed over the surface of the opisthosoma, pedipalps, and legs of Phidippus, Metaphidippus, and Icius. They are present on both immature and adult spiders.

The form of these structures suggests either a secretory or a sensory function. An EM study of material embedded in plastic should provide some answers, if anyone is interested.

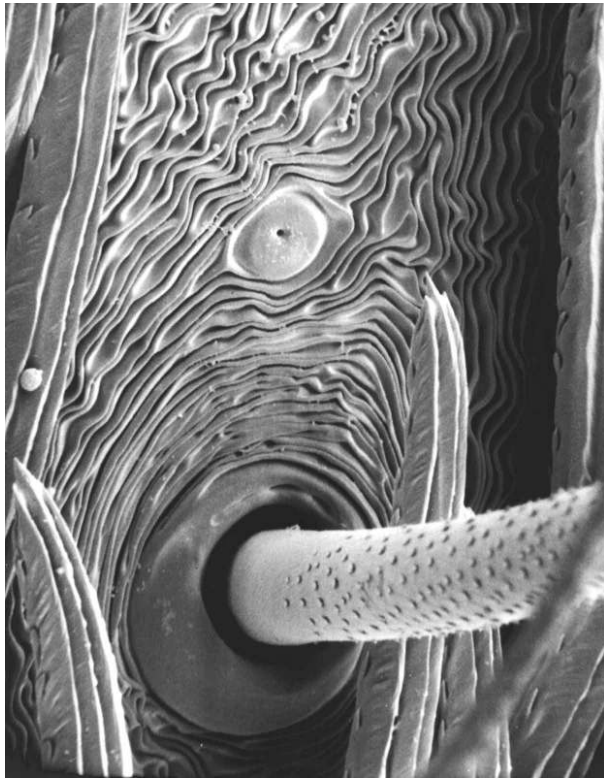


Fig. 1. (X 1380). Pore near the base of a large seta on the dorsal opisthosoma of an alcohol preserved specimen of Phidippus clarus (P. rimator). Portions of long, three-shafted red setae also lie above the folded (pleated) cuticle in this view.



Fig. 2. (X 1240). Dorsum of opisthosoma of a third instar P. clarus, showing the spacing of several of these distinctive pores. Scales (modified setae) and ordinary setae of two size classes are also present. The pleated opisthosomal cuticle allows for distention as the prey is imbibed. A smooth area of muscular insertion (left, center) interrupts the regular pleating.